

Tiverton Town Council Landfill Subcommittee

Regular Meeting Minutes: June 21, 2006

I: Call to Order

Chairman Wyman called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: A. Wyman (Chairman), T. Ramotowski, R. Hart, D. Wilbur, D. Webster (Director of Public Works), and W. G. Steckman (Town Administrator; arrived 3:25 PM).

Members absent: J. Fernandes

Also present: M. Pobzeznik, *Newport Daily News*

II: Approval of Minutes

MOTION 1:

Mr. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2006 regular meeting with the following corrections:

Page 3, paragraph 4, line 1: the word “ask” should be deleted.

Page 3, paragraph 6, line 3: The word “are” should be changed to “and”.

Seconded by Mr. Ramotowski.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

III: Additions/Changes/Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Hart stated that he had two items he wished to bring to the attention of the Subcommittee.

First, a law was recently passed in New Hampshire that will ban the disposal of video display units from landfills. Starting in 2007, such items must be recycled; it will be illegal to bury or burn them.

Second, residents of Minnesota will soon be paying extra fees to dispose of certain electronic items such as televisions, computers, etc.

The bottom line is that it is getting harder and more expensive to get rid of “electronic trash.”

Mr. Webster pointed out that RIRRC will be conducting an “Eco-Depot” at the town landfill on Saturday, July 15, 2006 for the collection and recycling of computers and computer related items (monitors, etc.). RIRRC will also be collecting unwanted cellular telephones as well.

Mr. Webster stated that in Rhode Island, TVs are not banned from disposal at the landfill. They are not allowed to be land-filled in Massachusetts. Many communities are charging residents disposal fees for TVs and other items that cannot be landfilled, because such items must be shipped to licensed disposal firms at added cost.

IV: Public Input

There was no public input.

V: Impacts of 01 April 2006 Implementation of Revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance

Mr. Webster distributed copies of a handout that contained updated figures for the number of vehicles making trips to the landfill. Mr. Webster noted that the figures showed that there were 7474 “vehicle-trips” to the landfill from March to June of 2006, and 5786 “vehicle-trips” to the landfill from March to June of 2005. The number of vehicle-trips to the landfill is down by 1688 from 2005 to 2006 – a reduction of about 22%.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if it was possible to determine if the amount of material being landfilled had decreased by about the same percentage. Mr. Webster stated that it would be impossible to know for sure until the annual landfill height survey is conducted in December. Mr. Hart stated that he saw a considerable amount of cardboard near the attendant’s shack – apparently people are recycling more cardboard now. Mr. Wilbur asked if the reduction in vehicle-trips to the landfill was due to a reduction in the number of vehicles bringing commercial waste to the landfill. Mr. Webster stated that not all of the reduction in vehicle-trips was due to the ban on dumping commercial waste at the landfill. Chairman Wyman noted that he had seen an increase in the number of commercial dumpsters being used in neighborhoods all over Town now that construction/demolition debris can no longer be disposed of at the landfill.

Mr. Webster recommended that vehicle counting be discontinued at the landfill; there was now enough data available to indicate the new hours and the ban on acceptance of commercial waste have resulted in a significant decrease in the number of vehicles depositing material at the landfill. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that the vehicle counting project at the landfill should be discontinued.

VI: Re-Licensing the Landfill – Discussion with RI-DEM

Mr. Webster stated that the Town had not yet received a paper copy of the renewed license for the landfill. RI-DEM personnel will be coming to Tiverton to inspect the landfill next Wednesday (June 28, 2006) at 10:30 AM. This is one of the regular site-inspections RI-DEM conducts periodically.

Mr. Webster noted that a sign has now been erected at the entrance to the landfill that delineates the items that cannot be disposed of in the landfill. The sign was one of the items RI-DEM requested during the operating license renewal discussions.

VII: Contractor for Collection of CFCs and Removal of Capacitors

Mr. Webster noted that the scrap metal pile was almost completely gone – the material was sold to a scrap yard. The Town still needs to ensure that all items containing CFCs are drained before they are scrapped. There is no additional funding in the landfill budget for 2006-2007 to do that, however. Mr. Webster stated that he had been able to negotiate a deal to drain CFCs from air conditioners, refrigerators, etc., with the firm that collects the scrap metal at the landfill. Mid-City Scrap will drain such equipment for \$4 per item. The cost for draining the CFCs will be deducted from the money Mid-City would otherwise have paid the Town for the scrap metal it collects from the landfill.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the items would be drained of CFCs at the landfill, or at Mid-City's facility. Mr. Webster stated that Mid-City would be draining the items on-site at the landfill. It will bring all of the necessary equipment to the landfill. Because of this arrangement, a certain amount of items (25 individual units) will have to accumulate at the landfill before the equipment will be brought in to drain them. Once the accumulation of items has been drained, the equipment will be removed. Mr. Ramotowski noted that CFCs were valuable and asked if Mid-City would be paying the Town any money for the CFCs recovered from the discarded equipment. Mr. Webster stated that the agreement allows Mid-City to keep the CFCs it collects without paying any compensation to the Town.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if Mid-City would also be draining PCB-containing oils from electrical capacitors, should that be necessary. Mr. Webster replied that it would, and that the previously mentioned 25-item accumulation requirement applied to both CFC and PCB containing items combined.

Mr. Webster noted that signs stating that ATVs cannot be driven/ridden at the landfill had not yet been posted (they are on order). Some boulders had been

strategically placed at possible locations where ATVs might be able to enter the landfill to bar their entrance.

Mr. Ramotowski inquired about the maintenance of the drainage system along the main access road to the landfill. Mr. Webster stated that several of the rip-rap “dams” in the drainage swale had become coated/clogged with fine particulate matter and sediment. Those dams were removed and replaced with fresh rip-rap. The removed material was deposited in the landfill.

Mr. Webster noted that grass was growing well where it had been planted on the finished slopes of the main trash pile.

Mr. Webster reported that the DPW had rented a large tub-grinder to process and get rid of the large pile of construction/demolition debris that had accumulated before disposal of such material was banned at the landfill. The cost of renting the tub-grinder was about \$10,000.00 – about \$7,500.00 than what was expected. The large pile of construction debris is now gone.

VIII: Containers for Recyclables at the Landfill

Mr. Webster stated that he had met with representatives from Allied/BFI to discuss how to better handle the recyclables collected near the attendant’s shack at the landfill. The major issue is corrugated cardboard. The landfill attendants have been inspecting incoming loads of trash and directing drivers to remove corrugated cardboard. The cardboard is often oversized and has been accumulating behind the attendant’s shack. BFI/Allied has agreed to provide two front-loading 8-cubic yard capacity dumpsters for the cardboard. Mr. Steckman noted that the dumpsters will be locked after hours to ensure no one dumps trash into them when the landfill is closed.

Chairman Wyman asked if any changes would be made to how bottles, cans and scrap paper are collected at the landfill. Mr. Webster replied that no changes in the handling of those materials were contemplated at this time, because the volume of material being collected is manageable. The amount of cardboard being collected has gone up significantly due to the diligence of the landfill attendants inspecting incoming loads.

IX: Recycling Bins for Villages at Mount Hope Bay, Country View Estates and Dadson Estates

Mr. Webster noted that the Town had applied for a grant from RIRRC to cover the cost of providing recycling bins for the large, private developments that the Town will soon be responsible for collecting trash and recyclables from. It is anticipated that the Town will receive some grant money for this purpose. Mr. Steckman noted that in the future, line items will have to be added to the budget to reflect the cost of supplying residents with replacement bins, and also for

revenue generated by fees for such bins, if the Town Council approves the concept of charging residents for them.

Mr. Ramotowski noted that the Town had not budgeted extra money for the collection of trash and recyclables from these large private developments. How is the Town going to pay for cost of servicing those additional areas? Mr. Webster noted that collection is scheduled to start in those areas on July 3, 2006, and BFI/Allied will be charging the Town extra for the additional areas being serviced. Mr. Steckman stated that he would bring the issue up at the next Town Council meeting. The amount of additional funding being sought by BFI/Allied for these additional collections is surprisingly high.

X: Discuss Date of Next Meeting/Adjournment

Mr. Ramotowski asked if additional fund had been found to pay for the needed repairs to the landfill bulldozer. Mr. Webster stated that the final drive, bucket and air conditioning system for the newer bulldozer were repaired, and the total cost was about \$18,000.00. The money to pay for these repairs will be squeezed out of this year's budget. The estimate for the repair of the engine on the older (back-up) bulldozer is \$11,000.00, and that will have to be paid out of the 2006-2007 budget. Mr. Webster noted that the operating plan for the landfill requires two machines be on hand for burying trash – a primary and a back-up. Mr. Steckman noted that fiscal constraints caused the request for a new bulldozer to be removed from the 2006-2007 budget. The older machine is really showing its age and should be replaced. Hopefully this can be worked into next year's capital budget.

Chairman Wyman noted that the next meeting for the Landfill Subcommittee was scheduled for 3:00 PM on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Landfill Subcommittee's 21 June 2006 regular meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

These minutes were recorded and compiled by T. Ramotowski